

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.4% (542) reside in the First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (103) of First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 72.2% of admissions from the First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District were male and 27.7% were female.
- Over 56.1% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 80.8% of admissions were white non-Latino, 6.5% were black non-Latino, 6.8% were Latino, 1.1% were Asians, and 4.8% were other racial categories.
- 66.2% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 14.8% were married, and 14.6% reported not to be married now.
- 19.9% of admissions had less than high school education, 41.7% completed high school, and 38.4% had more than high school education.
- 70.0% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 9.0% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.7% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	623	504	199	199	102	170	130
FY '96	642	520	198	186	85	178	136
FY '97	660	556	217	173	74	131	99
FY '98	628	523	182	155	73	133	110
FY '99	606	491	158	134	64	164	125
FY '00	609	494	159	114	65	164	122
FY '01	542	430	150	107	61	136	94

- Since peaking in FY 1997, residents of First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District report a leveling off in alcohol and marijuana use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting cocaine and crack use have decreased by 46% and 40%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	59.4%	21.8%	9.0%	4.2%	2.2%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- Alcohol and marijuana as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was higher than the State average, while heroin and crack use were lower within District.